

Caregiver Barriers to HPV Vaccination in the African-American and Afro-Caribbean Population

Gabriella Riccio, DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC; Eric A. Fenkl, PhD, RN, CNE; Charles P. Buscemi, PhD, ARNP, FNP-BC, CWCN; Audrey P. Miller, PhD, MSN Ed, ARNP, PPCNP-BC

Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences, Florida International University

Introduction

- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most prevalent sexually transmitted infection, causing around 79 million people in the United States to be currently infected with it, and an estimated new additional 14 million cases per year (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017).
- HPV can cause physical manifestations at the site of sexual contact, like genital warts, but more importantly, it can lead to multiple types of cancers (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017).
- African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans have been found to have higher risks for HPV and HPV-associated cancers when compared to their white counterparts (Cates, Ortiz, Shafer, Romocki, & Coyne-Beasley, 2012).
- Despite recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for vaccinating both girls and boys against HPV, there are still many challenges to reach appropriate immunization rates, particularly among minorities such as the African-American and Afro-Caribbean population.

Purpose

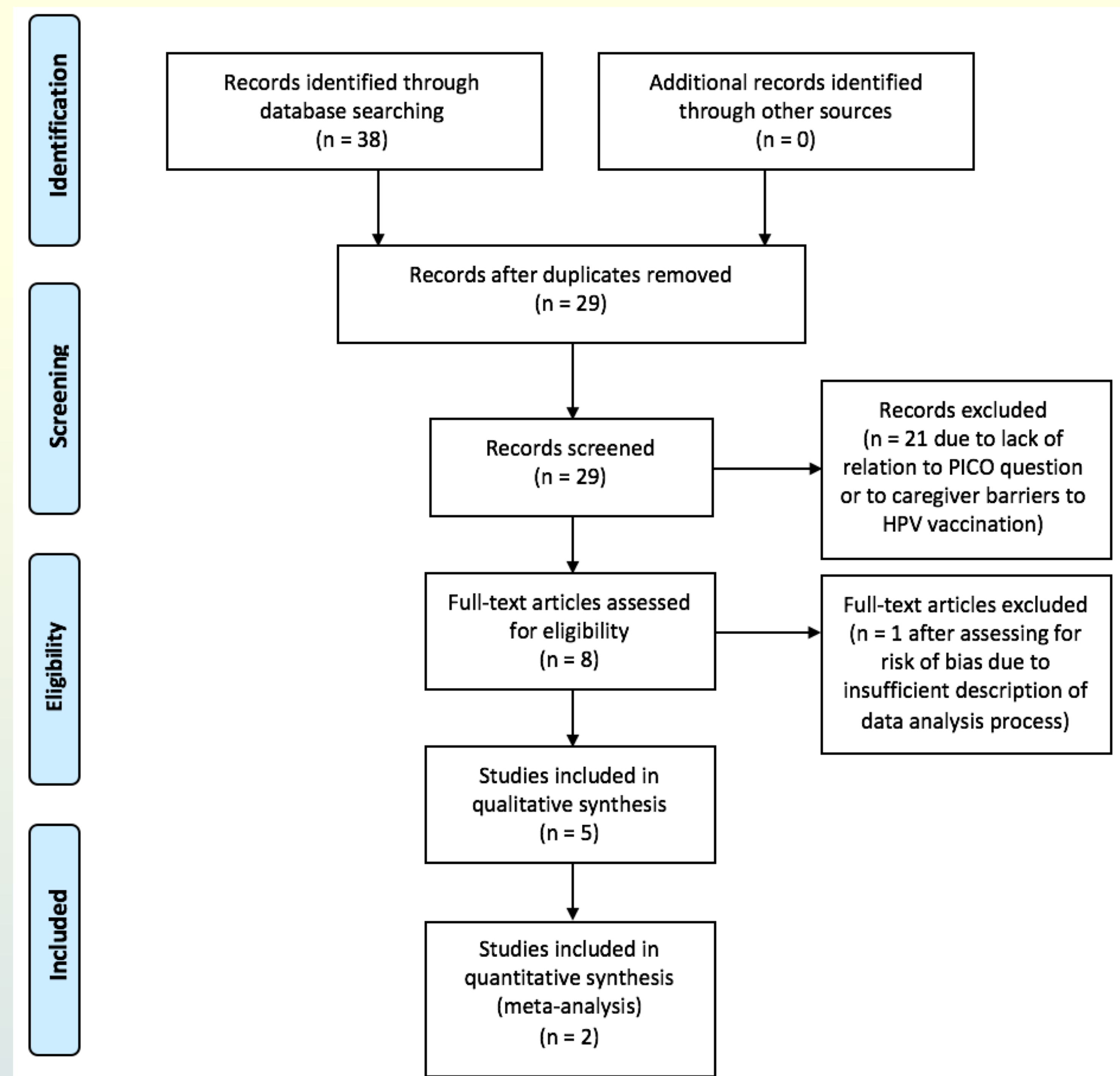
The aim of this systematic review was to explore caregiver barriers to HPV vaccination in the African-American and Afro-Caribbean population. This knowledge can then guide the development of strategies to counteract existing obstacles to HPV vaccination.

Methods

The eligibility criteria for this systematic review included that articles were:

- In the English language
- Original research papers
- Published within the last five years

A total of 38 studies were identified, with 12 studies being from CINAHL, and 26 studies from Medline. After screening the 38 articles for the previously stated inclusion criteria, eight full-text articles were assessed, and one was excluded after a quality appraisal, thus leaving seven studies to be included in this systematic review.



Results

This systematic review revealed that the African-American and Afro-Caribbean population has a broad spectrum of concerns regarding HPV vaccination.

- Knowledge barriers, with a desire for more guidance from healthcare providers.
- Perception that the HPV vaccines were either unnecessary, due to their children not being sexually active, or apprehension about promoting earlier and/or riskier sexual practices.
- Impression that the vaccines would have serious side effects, and that these vaccines may not have gone through appropriate testing and may not be efficacious, since they are newer than most other immunizations.
- Financial concerns regarding these multiple-dose vaccines.

Conclusion

There are significantly important health disparities between African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans and whites, with African-American and Afro-Caribbeans having lower HPV vaccination rates and higher rates of HPV-related diseases, which are inequities that nurses and all health professionals should address. This systematic review's findings have meaningful implications for the nursing profession in addressing these inequities:

- The need for nurses and other health care providers to offer recommendations for the HPV vaccine to patients and their caregivers as a means to address caregiver fears or doubts, and to promote timely completion of the HPV immunization series.
- By learning the most common barriers to HPV vaccination among caregivers in the African-American and Afro-Caribbean population identified in this study, nurses have the necessary information to create programs to educate the community, which are targeted to their specific barriers to HPV vaccine uptake.
- Further research will then be needed to determine if such educational programs tailored to educating caregivers in the African-American and Afro-Caribbean population about all of the identified topics that prevent them from vaccinating their children with the HPV vaccines are effective in increasing HPV immunization rates.



Nicole Wertheim
College of Nursing
& Health Sciences